Losses due to natural disaster

1548. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there had been huge loss of resources due to natural disasters during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof including that of weather related for the last three years, year-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the details of steps initiated to prevent/reduce such loss in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Due to its geographical location our country is vulnerable to a number of natural hazards like earthquake, floods, drought etc. It is not possible to compute all the losses in terms of money, however an amount of Rs. 4439.01 crore has been released as Central Share from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and Rs. 2343.92 crore from National Calamity Contingency fund (NCCF) since 2000-01 till date.

(c) the State Governments are primarily responsible for management of natural disasters and have been advised from time to time to take appropriate measures for mitigation and preparedness.

Maoist extremists

†1549. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Maoist extremists are active in Nepal adjoining areas of Bihar and in other areas;

(b) if so, the number of foreigners among these extremists;

(c) what steps Gvoernment have taken so far to ban these people and outcomes thereof; and

(d) the concrete steps Government propose to take to completely ban Maoist and other extremist organisations?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (d) According to available information, there have been linkages between Nepal's Maoists and Indian terrorist outfits, particularly the MCC (Maoists Communist Centre) and the PWG (People's War Group). Some CPN (Maoist) activists from Nepal have been detected/arrested while taking shelter in some bordering States of India to evade arrest in Nepal and also while undergoing treatment at Hospitals in UP, Bihar and West Bengal. The Central Government has also banned the PWG, the MCC and the ABNES (Akhil Bhartiya Nepali Ekta Samaj) under POTA, 2002.

Screening Committee to review POTA cases in J&K

1550. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have advised the Jammu and Kashmir Government to Constitute a Screening Committee to review the POTA cases in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) The Central Government has not issued any instructions to the State Government of J&K for setting up of any Screening Committee to review the POTA cases in the State. However, the State Government had as reported by then taken steps in 2001 to place the mechanism on the ground with respect to various safeguards provided in the POTA, which *inter-alia* included declaring the Principal Secretary (Home) as competent authority for the purpose of Section 36 of the Act and Divisional Commissioners as designated authorities relating to the forfeiture and attachment of property and initiating steps for the Review Committee chaired by a retired High Court judge.

Operational autonomy for Central Para-military Forces

1551. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any move to restore operational autonomy to Central Para-military Forces which are under army's operational control in some of the States;